

We Claim

Claim 1. A packaged assembly, comprising:

a predetermined plurality of stacked and nested muffin pans having a bottommost and an uppermost pan, each said muffin pan being substantially identical to the others thereof and each said muffin pan having a plurality of baking wells that extend downwardly at a predetermined angle to define a baking well bottom, a baking well side, and said muffin pan having an outwardly-extending muffin pan top portion ending in a circumferential muffin pan rim;

a predetermined plurality of muffin liners having a predetermined shape that is defined to fit within said baking wells of said muffin pans, said muffin liners stacked and nested against an outside surface defined by said baking wells of said muffin pans having a bottommost and an uppermost muffin liners nested against said bottommost muffin pan, wherein said uppermost muffin liner is positioned against said bottommost muffin pan;

a packaging tray within which said plurality of muffin pans and muffin liners are fully received, said packaging tray having:

a tray top portion substantially conforming in dimensions and shape to said muffin pan bottom including a plurality of wells sized to receive the baking wells of the bottommost muffin pan and the plurality of muffin liners, wherein said bottommost muffin liner being surrounded by an inner bottom and inner side surface defined by each well of the plurality of wells, and said bottommost muffin pan being surrounded by a top surface of said packaging tray;

a tray engagement portion extending peripherally outwardly and upwardly from said tray top portion, said tray engagement portion having a lower region extending outwardly from said tray top portion and an upper region extending upwardly from said lower region, said upper region having an upper periphery, said upper periphery having an attached lip whose width

slightly overlies said rim defined by said uppermost one of said plurality of muffin pans and whose length extends circumferentially to overlie the entire circumferential muffin pan rim, whereby said plurality of muffin pans and muffin liners are releasably snap locked in said packaging tray between said lower region and said inward protrusion of said engagement portion.

Claim 2. The packaged assembly of claim 1, further comprising a hang tab attached to said packaging tray.

Claim 3. The packaged assembly of claim 2, wherein said hang tab is integral to said packaging tray.

Claim 4. The packaged assembly of claim 3, wherein said packaging tray is made out of plastic.

Claim 5. The packaged assembly of claim 4, wherein said plastic is biaxially oriented polystyrene.

Claim 6. The packaged assembly of claim 1, wherein said packaging tray includes wells that have tapered v-flute ribs defined along the side surface of the wells.

Claim 7. The packaged assembly of claim 1, wherein the wells of the tray include side surfaces that taper outwardly at an angle that is larger than an angle defined by the baking well of

the bottommost muffin pan, such that the wells include an inner region sized to accommodate the baking wells of the stacked muffin pans and the stacked muffin liners.